

The Ames Intelligencer

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Fall 1992



YOU'RE INVITED

*Open House
Bauge Family Log House*

*McFarland Park
Sunday, September 27
2-4 p.m.*

Bauge House Update

by Sharon Wirth

The Bauge House, owned by the Story County Conservation Board, is undergoing restoration to the 1890-1910 time period under the direction of the Ames Heritage Association. This marks the time when Lars and Anna Bauge, second generation Bauges, began their life in the house. The facility will be used as a living history museum when restoration is completed. Extensive work has been completed on the exterior of the home since spring. The public is invited to see the progress and learn more about the restoration project. Transportation will be provided from the parking lot to the house site.

A new roof of cedar shingles now covers the entire house although some soffit work remains. Ben Svec and

Dennis Dobson from the Falls Millwork Co. are the restoration contractors for the project. Last year special reproduction windows were crafted for the house. This spring, protective "shutter" panels were produced to cover the new windows. Additional work recently completed by the Falls Millwork Co. includes repair of siding on the entire house, repair of the east lean-to wall, installation of two windows on the east side and completion of exterior window trim. Lapped siding will remain covering the logs on the exterior. On the interior the logs will be exposed.

With completion of this work, the house was ready for painting. Careful examination of paint layers remaining on the house revealed a creamy

buff color on the body and white on the trim areas. Paint was custom mixed to match the body color. A group of Saturday Morning Kiwanis members volunteered many hours scraping, priming, and painting. Kiwanis members involved include Lowell Yager, Tom Wickersham, Leo Timms and sons, Paul Larson, Don Hotchkiss, and George Engstrom. Others assisting with the painting were Dean Stebbins, Sharon Wirth, Clair Keller, Don Wirth, Art Barton, Ross Wirth, and David Wiese. The completed painting has transformed the home's appearance in addition to providing protection from the weather.

In 1988 the log house was moved from its original location north of Huxley to McFarland Park to avoid



Members of the Saturday Morning Kiwanis volunteered many hours painting the Bauge House.

demolition. To date, restoration expenses have totaled approximately \$17,000. This includes \$5500 for the move and new foundation for the main house. Inside little restoration work has been completed. An estimated additional \$10,000 will be needed to finish the project. This includes a steel beam support system for the loft floor, enabling the loft to be used by the general public. Furnishings and programming will provide visitors with a glimpse of rural life around the turn of the century as experienced by a Norwegian/American family.

Programming will center around the following themes: (1) "The West-

ward Trek" to describe the westward migration of non-native populations into Iowa and to describe Nils and Synneva Bauge's movements from Norway to Illinois to Iowa; (2) "Building the Norwegian Log Home" to describe the construction of a typical log home in the tradition of Norwegian settlers; (3) "Making a New

Life" to describe the procedures to establish a home and farm in newly-opened land and to describe Lars and Anna Bauge's household and way of life; and (4) "Living in Story County at the Turn of the Century" to describe county, state, and national events during the 1890-1910 time period to explain outside influences in Lars and Anna Bauge's life-style.

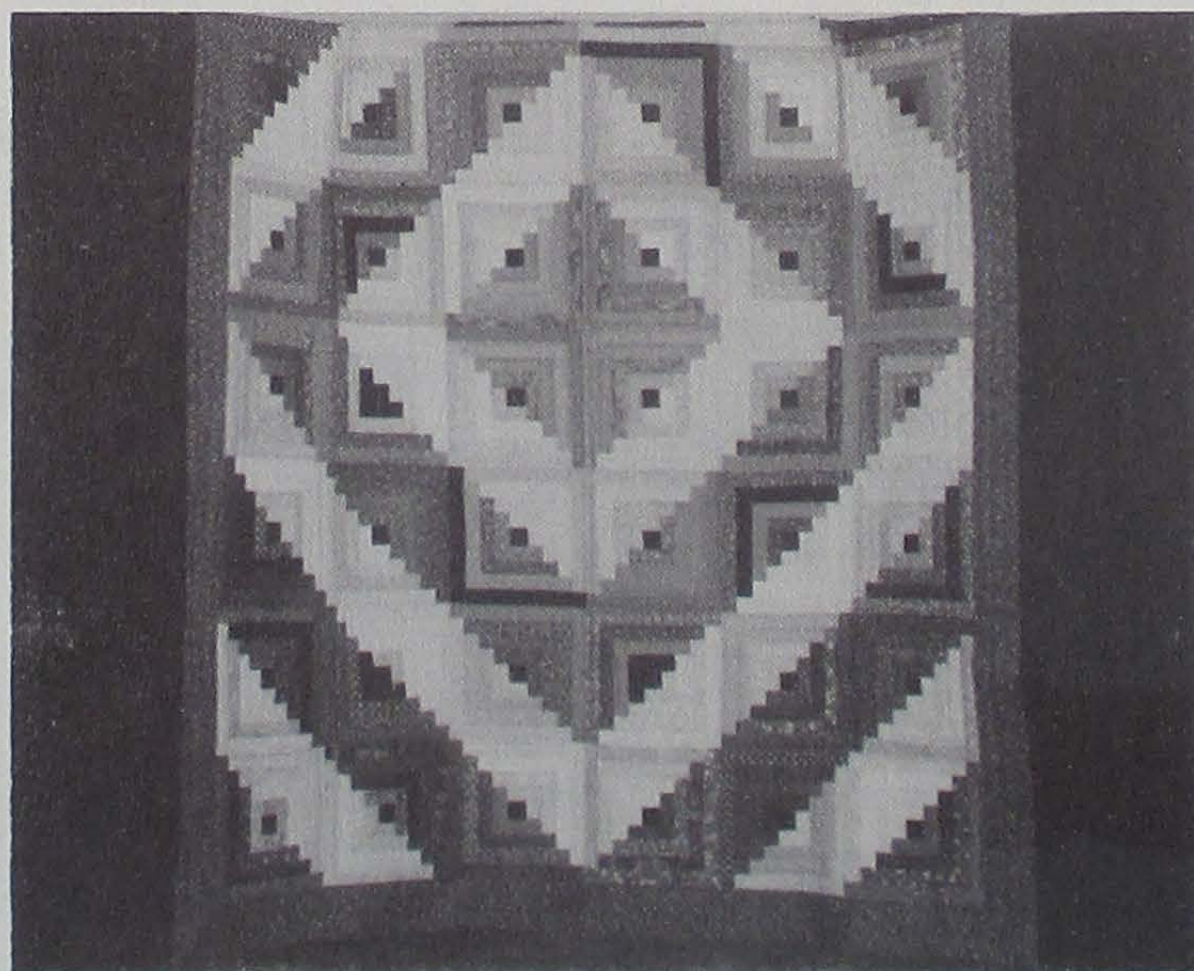
The Bauge Home is open periodically for scheduled open houses or by appointment only. For more information, contact restoration coordinator, Sharon Wirth at 233-2415 or the Story County Conservation Center at 232-2516.

History Displays

The Ames Heritage Association received enthusiastic approval to mount heritage-related displays in the glass-fronted cabinets in the City Hall's Council Chambers. Four displays have been mounted by Kathy Svec and Ruth Grabau. Topics currently included are Billy Sunday, the Dinkey, the 1915 Municipal Building and early telephone-related materials. These displays will be changed quarterly by the Association. Stop by and visit the City Council Chambers on the second floor and/or take a few minutes to browse through the displays the next time you attend a meeting there. Later this fall an exhibit will be mounted in the cases about notable Ames leaders of 1917-1918 including caricatures from the 1917-1918 Ames Evening Times and related memorabilia.

Historic Home Tour Oct. 4

The Historic Old Town Association will sponsor a tour of historic homes on Sunday, October 4, 1992 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. A group of homes located in the Old Town Historic District will be open to the public. Tickets may be purchased at open homes the day of the tour, \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students. Open homes are located at 812 Douglas, 714 Douglas, 213 8th St., 709 Duff, 816 Duff, 904 Kellogg, and 218 Main St. (Rhodes Apothecary). The Old Town Historic District is located in the area immediately north of the downtown business district between Duff and Clark Avenues. A number of homes in the historic district have undergone restoration in the past 5 years; the tour provides an opportunity for the public to see and experience first-hand this restoration activity. For more information contact Joan Baker at 232-0809.



A quilt, hand-crafted by the Neta Snook Questers in the "log cabin" pattern, has been donated for use in the Bauge House. Watch for the Winter issue of this newsletter to learn more about Questers' involvement in the Bauge House project.

Ames Bottling Works

by Donald F. Faas

"Ames to Make Pop by the Wholesale" was the headline of the August 27, 1908, Ames Intelligencer announcing the beginning of the manufacture of pop in Ames. Frank Danforth, an Ames businessman, purchased equipment from the Tipton Bottling Works and brought it to Ames to expand his already flourishing ice cream factory. He supplied ice cream to practically every restaurant and soda fountain establishment in Ames and shipped his products to thirty towns throughout Iowa.

The Ames Bottling Works was first located in the basement of a skating rink at the east end of Main Street on the north side. This was just a short distance west of where the corner of Main and Duff Avenue is today. Danforth announced, "he would make nothing but pure temperance drinks of the pop and ginger ale order, nothing that would run opposition to the Boone saloons." Ames was a temperance town at the time, however, Boone was not and several businesses in Boone were active in bottling beer as well as pop.

The first public evidence of Danforth's new business was seen on the Chautauqua grounds. Young ladies were seen strolling with pop bottles in their mouths and an ice cream cone in their hands. In the early 1900's pop was viewed with skepticism and the ladies drinking from the bottles in public were no doubt viewed as quite adventurous.

In the late teens, George M. Passmore acquired the business and operated it out of his basement at 1304 Douglas, at the northeast corner of

13th and Douglas. Cream for the business was purchased from Logson Dairy located on East 13th Street a short distance east of 13th and Douglas. At this time the business was listed in the Ames City Directory (1919) as the Ames Bottling Works and Ice Cream Co. In contrast to the Danforth business, Passmore concentrated on local deliveries. His daughter, Lucille Passmore Young, now of Boone, helped her father deliver pop and ice cream to Chatauqua Park at the base of the 13th Street hill. Deliveries were also made to Dayton Park on Dayton Road and Lake Comar near Story City. Lucille recalls making deliveries from an old Buick sedan. The back seat was removed and it was converted into a pickup.

Passmore mixed all of his own flavors and manually poured the mixture into bottles. He then added a touch of carbonation to each bottle and capped them with a foot-powered capper, the cap matching the flavor in the bottle. The process of adding carbonation was quite imprecise and occasionally he would over carbonate resulting in bottles that would explode when capped. His daughter recalls that at least once a cut artery resulted from a bottle explosion. Ice cream flavors included vanilla, chocolate and maple nut. The maple nut was made by adding maple flavoring and grape nuts to a vanilla base.

Pop bottles of the day were quite different from those we know. They were not machine made, but, rather mouth blown using individual molds. In 1885 the slug plate was invented which made molds re-useable. Carved



This mouth-blown bottle from the collection of Don Faas was made for the Ames Bottling Works by the Illinois Glass Co. in Alton, Illinois.

from cast iron, the slug plate contained the lettering specific to a product or bottling works. For example, a mouth-blown bottle from around 1908 reads "The Ames Bottling Works, Ames, IA." The slug plates containing the lettering were removeable thus allowing the molds to be used for the production of bottles for several businesses. Typically the location and mold number were also imprinted. The above mentioned bottle also reads, "Illinois Glass Co. Alton, ILL., Mold No. 755."

In the early 20's, Passmore's wife, Pearl, insisted the bottling business be removed from the house. With the help of his father, John W. Passmore, he built a concrete block building in the back yard for the bottling and ice cream works. John Passmore was a cement contractor and helped make the blocks and construct the building. Today a number of cement block houses can be seen in this area of town, apparently developed by the

Ames Bottling Works and ICE CREAM CO.

POP AND CIDERS ALL FLAVORS

Ice Cream, Ices and Sherberts for Parties

We Have Our Own Delivery

GIVE US A TRIAL ORDER

Phone Black 470

Thirteenth and Douglas Ave.

An advertisement from the 1919 Ames City Directory tells about the bottling works then owned by George M. Passmore.

Passmores who molded the blocks as part of their cement business.

The bottling and ice cream business was a natural attraction for neighborhood kids. Pop was readily available without a trip to the store and they were invited to bring spoons and bowls to help clean out the ice cream freezer at the end of a run. Ames

historian Farwell Brown recalls buying nickel pop from the 13th and Douglas location as a young lad.

The demise of the Ames Bottling Works and Ice Cream Co. came in 1924 when Passmore took a job with the U.S. Postal Service in Ames. Not having time to continue his business, he sold it to Stoll Bottling Works. It

was moved to Boone where it joined several other pop and beer bottling businesses.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Look for more about bottling works history in the next issue—The Formation of the Ames Bottling Company by Carl R. Hoff in 1929.

1915 City Hall—A Landmark?

by Rose Rollenhagen

A forgotten treasure stands on the southeast corner of 5th and Kellogg. Most recently known as the "Public Safety Building", the name "1915 City Hall" or "Municipal Building" more accurately describes its use for the majority of its years.

Ames' first city hall/fire station was built on the same site in 1886. It was razed in 1915 to make way for the new city hall/fire station. This site was in continuous use for city government purposes from 1866 to 1990.

The 1915 City Hall is a landmark of Ames' transition from a pioneer village to a city. The late 1800's and early 1900's was a period of rapid growth for Ames. The population nearly quadrupled from 1307 in 1885 to 5091 in 1915. The City's platted area increased tenfold between 1875 and 1915. Many schools, churches and residences, as well as Ames' first public library and its first hospital were built. The City created a system of public works, including streets, sewer, water, and a power plant.

By 1915, the small two-story, two-room brick building that served as the city hall/fire station was woefully inadequate. A committee was appointed to survey architectural firms and the prominent Des Moines firm of Liebke, Nourse and Rasmussen was selected. This firm practiced from 1898 to 1926 and rivaled Proudfoot and Bird for



1915 City Hall

state supremacy in this field. Other Liebke, Nourse and Rasmussen designs in Ames included the 1913 Ames Savings Bank, the Masonic Temple (now the Octagon) and the original Mary Greeley Hospital. Their work on the I.S.U. campus included the Landscape Architecture Building and the Knoll. To date, the Ames 1915 City Hall is the only known city hall in Iowa designed exclusively by Liebke, Nourse, and Rasmussen.

Based on this fact and the overall integrity of the building, the State Historic Preservation Office has declared this building to be eligible for listing on the National Register.

The design of the 1915 City Hall was dignified and spacious. Its Classical Revival style expressed the Midwestern ideal of economic, democratic government. High-quality materials were used, including Boone brick and

Bedford limestone. Marble lines the vestibule and was used for baseboard in the front corridor. State-of-the-art terrazzo floors were laid for high-traffic areas with hard wood floors in other areas.

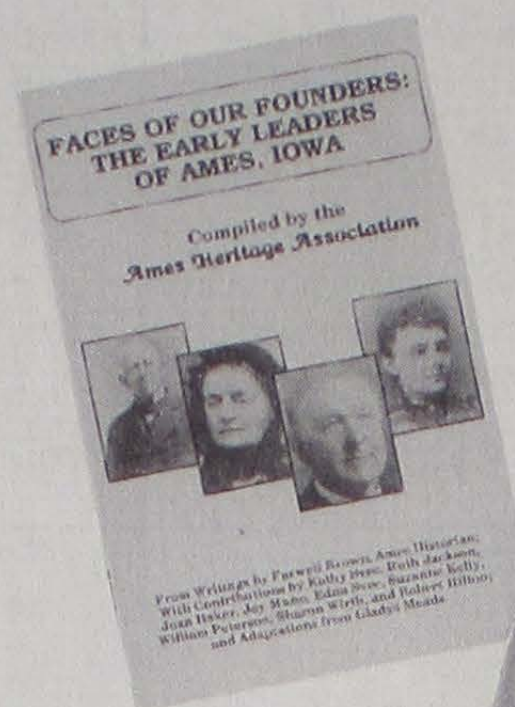
Three skylights provided natural daylight on the landing of the main stairway and in the drafting room. The Council Chambers was a large room (28' by 54') which spanned the east-west depth of the building to the fire station on the east. Oak doors and

woodwork, florentine glass, and plaster beams and pilasters grace the interior.

Most of the architectural features of this building are still intact, though some lie hidden behind partition walls and suspended ceilings. The exterior remains relatively intact except for replacement of doors and windows.

In short, the 1915 City Hall is a well-designed, well-built landmark that represents a large part of our City's history. The Ames Heritage Association has submitted an application to the City of Ames requesting it be designated a local landmark. This request has been endorsed by the State Historic Preservation Office, the Ames Historic Preservation Commission, and a recently completed city-wide survey of historic resources by a professional consultant. The next, and final, step is approval by the Ames City Council.

Ames History By Mail



\$6.00

Faces of Our Founders: The Early Leaders of Ames, Iowa

A 40 page book based on the materials gathered for Ames' 125th anniversary celebration exhibition. Featured are a detailed time line through 1916, 22 biographies of early leaders and 35 photographs of personalities, families and places.

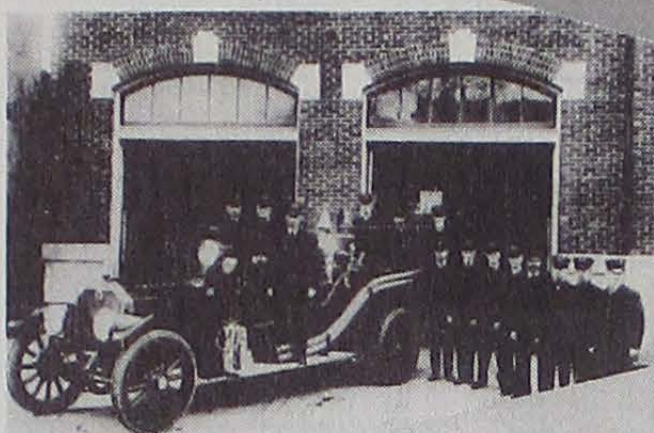


\$2.50

Memories of a Commercial Traveler by Kendrick Brown

This 1971 issue of the Iowa Historical Society's Palimpsest features the collected columns of K.W. Brown, Ames' first grocer in 1866. When he later became a salesman and traveled the state, he sent home his written observations for the weekly paper. Enjoy his views of early Ames and Iowa.

K.W. Brown was Farwell Brown's grandfather.



\$1.00

1990 Ames Historical Calendar

\$2.00

1992 Ames Historical Calendar

Twelve collectable pictures in each calendar, with descriptive captions. Measures 8 1/2" x 11".

To be announced

Coming in late 1992, Farwell Brown's book of collected Ames stories, including numerous photographs.

All proceeds from these sales go to support the Ames Heritage Association's Bauge Log Home restoration project, and other programs.

Send to: Ames Heritage Association, Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010

of copies

- _____ Faces of Our Founders @ \$6.00 plus \$.75 postage
- _____ Memories of A Commercial Traveler @ \$2.50 plus \$1.00 postage
- _____ 1990 Ames Historical Calendar @ \$1.00 plus \$1.00 postage
- _____ 1992 Ames Historical Calendar @ \$2.00 plus \$1.00 postage

☐ Yes, add me to the list of those interested in information about Farwell Brown's book.

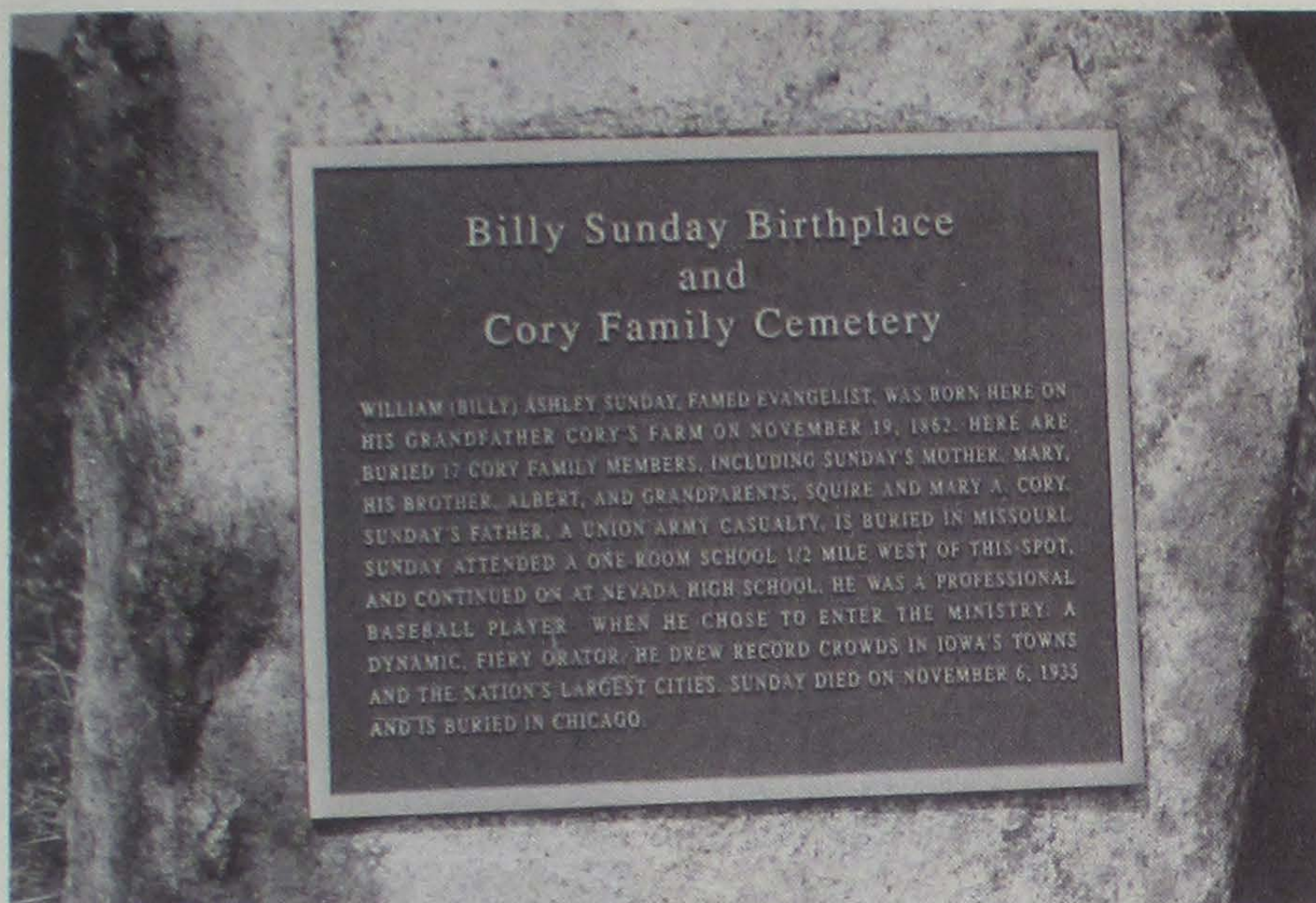
Name _____

Address _____

☐ Please send information about becoming a member of the Ames Heritage Association.

Memorial Plaque Project Completed

by Kathy Svec



This memorial plaque was dedicated on May 31 by the Ames Heritage Association. It marks the Billy Sunday Birthplace and Cory Family Cemetery located northwest of the former Ames Water Pollution Control Plant overlooking Highway 30.

The weather cooperated beautifully on May 31 for the dedication of the Billy Sunday Birthplace/Cory Family Cemetery memorial plaque. Culmination of the project achieves one of the Association's goal for the 1992 year.

About 25 people were in attendance, including descendants of Squire Cory and Sunday's wife, Nell. Farwell Brown gave brief comments about life on the Cory farm and Billy Sunday's colorful career. The Ames Heritage Association expresses its thanks to Scott Wermeister of Steven's Chapel who painted the fence for the occasion and Ames city staff for mowing and providing access to the site.

Readers may be interested in a recently published biography available at the Parks Library. It is highly readable and conveys a reliable feel for the man and his times: **PREACHER: BILLY SUNDAY AND BIG TIME AMERICAN EVANGELISM** by Roger A. Bruns, published by W.W. Norton and Co., New York, 1992.

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The Ames Heritage Association meets the third Monday of every month (September through June) at 7:00 p.m. at Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the third Monday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The Ames Intelligencer is published three times a year-winter, spring, and fall.

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